MS. WEIDENHEIMER: My name is Ruth Weidenheimer. I live in Pahrump.

How many people sitting in this audience live in Pahrump? May I see the hands? Four people, five, six people. This is our problem, our problem. There's a dichotomy.

I decided I'd go to bingo before I came here. I enjoyed it. A lot of numbers were involved and I'd like to involve you people in numbers, also. First I'd like to give you a little bit of background.

I am part of the generation that caused this mess, the accumulation of nuclear materials.

It produced a dichotomy. It produced a lot of bad things, messes that nobody ever foresaw, but by the same token, it gave us all our freedom.

I don't know which is the better exchange, but we have freedom to think and to do, but somehow or another
1 this seems to be a process here of putting the nuclear waste dump in this state and promulgating it at a point at which none of us can comprehend.

We don't know what to do with it and we know none of you know what to do with it and you do not know what will happen in years down the road.

You're using an educated guess, and a lot of great minds have thought about it. I've gone to your meetings at UNLV. I've gone to many of the meetings around here.

From day one, the public has not come on board. Why? I don't know. That's not my problem, but unless you can say to Joe Henry "this is a serious problem for you and for the generations that you bring on this earth," unless you can get him to say, "Yeah, okay. It will affect my grandson," but you know what? People aren't even saying that.

They're basically saying, "Well, I've done my duty. I won't be here that much longer. It's the next generation's problem."

Well, as we well know in the year 2000, much is going to happen that is absolutely marvelous from the standpoint of youth and having -- youth having the opportunity to live and to grow, to develop and to have a full, rich life.

This Yucca Mountain deal -- and I don't mean just Yucca Mountain -- could, if you will, end all that for all of -- all of humanity.

2... I'd like to ask a question here and then come back to some more thoughts. How much nuclear waste is being promulgated every year in the United States alone? Can any of you answer that? No one can answer that?

Then let me go back to some of the history and some of the facts and figures that I'll bring from bingo here. That was my lead-in.

2 cont. In fifty years, this country alone has accumulated enough nuclear -- high-level nuclear waste to fill one and three-quarter Yucca Mountains.

The biggest thing I hear in all these meetings; there's a lot of scientific data; there's a lot of research, a lot of opinions, nobody talks about the second Yucca Mountain. The second Yucca Mountain is just the fingertip.

Years ago, about four years ago, Pete Carmack, who's now no longer with us, was holding his meetings here in Pahrump and we attended them to find out more about this project.

Half of the audience was his family he got to come so there'd be some people there. There were some excellent speakers came.

2 cont. There were about six of us from Pahrump, and I know I asked one question "What are you going to do with this extra waste?" And the gentleman who was the speaker said, "We have a second Yucca Mountain right near the first Yucca Mountain." I haven't heard anybody say anything about that. I haven't heard anything about it.

But you see, that's still -- you look at this, this is a numbers game. If it takes fifty years to, if you will, accumulate all this waste and the half-life is 12,000 years, how many years are you looking at where this whole earth is going to be up for grabs, or to be, if you will, not just violated, but exterminated?

Because you're not talking about one Yucca Mountain or two Yucca Mountains. You're talking like 24,000 Yucca Mountains and where are you going to get them from and where are you going to put them. Are you going to stack them up to the moon?

We have a very serious problem, a problem that people aren't here because they can't fathom it. It is like the Internet. It is like things that they can't deal with, and whenever people can't deal with something that is so horrendous and horrible, they stay away. They deal with what they can deal with.

And so I ask again, you know, even -- even the television station which has a special program called Hot Topics isn't here for this hot topic. It's a great television station.

And I guess my last kind of thought here -- I should tie up to the question that this conference was for. This is a positive statement even though it sounds negative.

A lot of the speakers have alluded to the suitability of the site for many reasons. Population is no longer, you know, sparse in this area. It's getting very dense.

3 It possibly is -- the site is possibly situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire. I bring that up because you have your Mt. St. Helens explosions and you can come all the way around and do you realize southwest of here is a big field of magna?

We don't even go to visit it, but you know there's been volcanic activity in this region many, many times.

We also know about the fissures, we know about the earthquakes, we know about all that stuff.

We don't know how hot -- hot stuff can stay a solid. We have no idea the exponential rate of putting hot with hot with hot and what it might do.

4 But I think there's one thing we do know, and that is in this day and age, we know what a smart bomb is. We know what precision bombs are. We've invented them, and you don't think the whole world isn't going to know where Yucca Mountain is and Mucca Mountain and all the rest of the little names you're going to have to come up with for these depositories?

Not alone talking about the transportation coming across the entire United States where most of the accidents happen in cities, but not in rural areas because the railroads cross in the middle of cities.

Isn't there possibly -- I mean, I don't want to say this Rule 97, but it looks like it ducks the issue. Are you going to apply Rule 97 to all the future Yucca Mountains, because they're all part of the system.

The system is not one little Yucca Mountain. The system is forever, as the last speaker said.

There's got to be another way, folks. It costs more to produce electricity with nuclear fuel than by the old fossil methods, but we again are in the dilemma.

The old fossil methods are polluting the atmosphere, but I asked -- I don't know your -- our host name if he knew what the nitty gritty was, and he's the first person in the last year who knew the answer.

The key word is it's slang, but the key word is for essence of life, and we got a nitty gritty problem here and it's the essence of life.

Thank you.